

CHAPTER II

THE FRENCH ADMINISTRATION OF INDO-CHINA

"Je n'ai ainsi le droit de conqu&e: un droit n^cessaire, l^gitime et nMtiheurefoc, qiri Msse toujours & payer une dette Immense pour s'acquitter envexs k nature Innnaïne."

Montesquieu

TTITHEN Admiral Chamer came to Cochín-China in 1861, his W infractions were of the vaguest. The desirability of a French poet in the Far East had been apparent to the July Monarchy, but It an imperious necessity under Napoleon III, who involved in Chinese campaigns. Nothing beyond this skeleton idea, however, had been evolved, so that the Admiral's administration was not to preconceived principles but born of current circumstances.

civilization was an unknown quantity to the French. Only and the natives trained in their schools to speak a latin, could serve as intermediaries. All clues to the old system disappeared with the mandarins who had records—of wMdi the most important were the tax they took ffight. Not only were the French officers to with administrative work in but my previous experience of the Asiatic mind. They at strategic points and told to maintain a* Since and circuitous waterways were the aofo of they had to contend with regional

» well as from Saigon,
 Governor of Cochin-China, mildly indicated
 * of hb role. He had had
 previous expe-
 tl was familiar with the
 current
 of t But the light of the mandarins
 * in Cbdiin-China,
 Native
 fcað fefee created from very inferior material.
 officers, as Inspectors of Native
 Affairs,
 }ftkt the JpxtdeccfBoiB, exercised all
 powers indis-
 to in salary and promotion
 Bonard's ctf tbe language; In spite of
 to the form of government, the
 periodic
 01 tie asffitry forced Mm
 more and